NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6

NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 6 – Number 1 **April, 1972**

LIFE OF MARY SCHEDULE UPDATED

In the form letter sent out recently to all our members we had hoped to send out the first two issues together, but since then we have had another delay with the second medal. Not wanting to hold things up any longer, we went ahead and sent the Mary is Born Medal which is enclosed with this NEWSLETTER.

The big problem came to light when the mint returned the artist's plaster model for the second issue which is the Annunciation Medal. The diemakers wanted the model done over because they considered the relief too high for making a die that would coin or strike properly. The cause of this was partly the fault of an incorrect relief gauge furnished by the mint for use by our sculptor. Since the original model took some two hundred hours to design and sculpt, we knew then that sending both issues together were out of the question. Therefore, the Annuciation Medal, the second issue which normally would have gone out in June, will now be shipped in July providing there are no further delays.

We ask that all members bear with us until we get back on a regular schedule. We wish to state that great art is never rushed and the CCMS Directors will never sacrifice good art simply to make a shipment date and thereby shortchange our faithful members who rely on the Society whose reputation for the best is well known in the medallic world.

Even though the Directors do everything in their power to have shipments on a regular basis, there is a limit to what they can do or accomplish. The enormous job of coordinating each shipment on time is no easy task. The scheduling of the sculptor, the diemakers, the minting production run, the nameplate maker, the printer and the packaging systems all have to converge to a single dateline which sometimes ends up in mass confusion.

It seems someone or something is always late, incorrectly made, or lost along the way, and all we get are promises and more promises. A couple of years ago, a well known commemorative medal society with over nineteen hundred members ceased operations because their directors found these above problems to be overwhelming and their renumeration disproportionate to the hardships they had to bear.

NAMEPLATES COMING LATER

The nameplate that usually accompanies each medal will be missing for the first three Life of Mary issues. The first four nameplates will be mailed along with the fourth issue in October which is the visitation Medal. The reason for this irregularity is that we have engaged a new nameplate manufacturer and we are having all twelve nameplates made at one time. This will insure perfect color match and exact size.

So, please remember that the first four nameplates will be sent together in October. For the members who have read this we thank you, but from past experience we can expect at least two hundred letters asking why a nameplate was not included. Yes, all because too many members won't take a few minutes to read this all important little publication called the CCMS NEWSLETTER. This form of communication was primarily designed to be interesting, informative and most important to eliminate unnecessary and costly correspondence. The CCMS Board of Directors theorized that by streamlining the NEWSLETTER, possibly more members would digest the NEWSLETTER if it were more condensed and to the point.

Over the years, we have noticed little interest in the last two pages of the NEWSLETTER, which usually deals with the historical or Biblical background of each medal. While this idea will not be dropped completely, we plan to substitute a brief sketch when necessary to a better understanding of the sculptor's design. As an added feature, we will include the sculptor's views on how and why he designed his medal. This will be done when the subject is somewhat hard to understand and where sometimes symbols are used and are not generally known to the average layman.

IN THE MAILBAG
LIFE OF MARY COMMENTS

As to the selection of subjects for the Life of Mary no one could have done better.

Mary McCormick (1003)
of New York State

Seeing your list of subjects for the Life of Mary sure sounds like a great series.

Rev. H. Gregowski (1809)
of Illinois

I am very happy with your Marian selection. At this time, I would like to nominate a special medal on The Immaculate Conception, Patroness of our beloved country, the U.S.A.

Rev. J. Gallant (1477)
of Florida

The selections for the Life of Mary Series are excellent. We are looking forward to the series. We hope you have a sculptor with a sensitive feeling for detail and please — no stylizing.

Geneva Hammer (0235)
of California

*The editor suggests everyone get out his magnifying glass and examine the coming Annunciation Medal — the detail is fabulous, yet breathtakingly beautiful.

NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 6 - Numbers 2 and 3 **June - August, 1972**

SUBJECTS FOR LIFE OF MARY SERIES NOW COMPLETED

The now blossoming story of the Blessed Virgin truly begins to unfold with the beautiful third issue at the marriage of Mary and Joseph. The extensive research into the life of Mary brought into focus many decisions the CCMS Art Directors had to make. Choosing twelve scenes was not without difficulty. Determination toward the proper selections were favored if they had a strong Scriptural basis, while other events of a legendary nature were given less priority. All these selections, of course, had to bear upon the whole idea of Mary and her relation to Jesus.

The CCMS Directors wish to thank the nearly one hundred members who volunteered their time by writing in and expressing their views on the Life of Mary subjects. It should be said too that none of the lists recommended were exactly the same. All were different as were the selections made by our panel of Bible experts, priests and ministers. CCMS would like to make honorable mention of a few of the following members whose efforts were especially appreciated for their help in arriving at the final selections for the Life Of Mary:

Rev. Martin Scholsky (1300)
of Connecticut

Nicholas Grecco (1391)
of New York

Frank Malinowski (0372)
of New York

Rev. Harold Schneider (1160)
of Ohio

F. Buser (0623)
of Colorado

THE LIFE OF MARY SERIES:

LMS-1	Mary Is Born
LMS-2	The Annunciation
LMS-3	Mary and Joseph are Married
LMS-4	The Visitation
LMS-5	Jesus Is Born
LMS-6	The Presentation
LMS-7	The Flight Into Egypt
LMS-8	Mary Finds Jesus In The Temple
LMS-9	Mary at The Marriage Feast
LMS-10	The Crucifixion
LMS-11	The Assumption
LMS-12	The Coronation

FATHER PETER IN NEW ROLE

Father Peter, who is up in years has been in poor health for the past two years. Our talented artist priest will only be carrying on now in an advisory capacity. Arthritis in his hands has severely limited his artistic abilities. Father Peter has always worked jointly and together with another fellow countryman and artist who will continue on alone. This gifted man is Jozsef Vudy, who also won fame as a Freedom Fighter from Hungary. He was considered one of Hungary's foremost artists before he was forced to flee the communist tyranny.

While Father Peter, due to his poor health only assisted in the designs of the first three issues in the Life Of Mary, Vudy did all the sculpturing. Actually, no one can really tell their styles apart thereby insuring a steady flow of design for this series. The only problem for the CCMS is getting a whole set of new nameplates with the change made for the sculptor. The promise to mail out these nameplates with the fourth medal may now be delayed to go out with the fifth medal in December, which is the Jesus Is Born medal.

IN THE MAILBAG

I agree with your choice of twelve medals in the Life Of Mary with a common reverse. I felt that the Life of Christ Series was at a disadvantage for displaying reasons. If you did not subscribe to two sets you would have to use special mirrors to show both sides. I have a glass curio cabinet for which I use to display whole series of medals.

Joseph Abiuso (1436)
of New York

Thank you for including me in your Life Of Mary research group. Your decision on twelve scenes with a common reverse is fine.

Richard Manners (1893)
of New Jersey

● *The trend by all the major mints for the last several years has been to do series with a common reverse or one with descriptive words. To name a few there is the Genius of Michelangelo Series, Roberts Bird Series, the Shakespeare Series and the Rare and Endangered Species Series. Another trend is the doing away with serial numbering. In the past year one rarely finds any new series with serial numbering.*

MEMBER'S PROBLEM SOLVED

I have a problem. I have lost the nameplate for Medal No. 1 in The Life Of Christ Series. I am also missing some CCMS NEWSLETTERS. Is it possible to have this nameplate and get my missing newsletters?

Robert Faber (0703)
of Pennsylvania

● *Yes, we have extra nameplates and back issues of CCMS NEWSLETTERS. There is no charge but a stamped self-addressed envelope is truly appreciated and speeds up the process.*

NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 6 - Number 4 October, 1972

NEW PAYMENT SYSTEM PROVES SUCCESSFUL

The CCMS Board of Directors wish to thank all Charter Members for their co-operation in making the new payment system a success. Making a payment in advance for two medals at a time has made possible great savings in bookkeeping, posting and other accounting work. Correspondence dealing with payment problems is the most expensive item in our administrative budget and that has now been cut considerably. Non-charter members have been paying for three medals in advance for sometime and this has also been not only convenient but well accepted. Many members have requested permission to pay for the entire series at one time and the CCMS thanks the many who did.

FINE CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA OFFERED MEMBERS

Enclosed with this Visitation Medal mailing is an order form for those who would still like to purchase the outstanding and famous Prince of Peace Medal in pendant form.

The Prince of Peace Medal pendants sculptured by Evangelos Frudakis are available in both the 18-Karat solid gold and sterling silver editions. The price of the solid gold at $30.00 each is truly a bargain since these pendants were purchased last year long before world gold prices soared to double the old established price in reaching the $70.00 per ounce levels. Only 1,000 of these solid gold pendants were in that original order last year. Even though the edition had been authorized to be limited to 3,796 pieces, it is not likely that the balance will ever be struck. The current and continuing high prices of gold, which may triple in value according to some experts, will prohibit completing our mintage quota. If the remainder were ordered at today's prices, each gold pendant would have to sell for at least $50.00 to $60.00 each.

Here then is an outstanding value at a theoretical savings of 50% for those members who would like to take advantage of this outstanding buy. Again, the solid 18-Karat yellow gold pendant is only $30.00 each and the same thing in sterling is still just $5.00 each.

Both pendants are packaged in a beautiful plush gift presentation

case of simulated white padded leather. The case interior is majestically appointed in purple velvet and satin and the inside lid has the Society Seal embossed in 24-Karat gold upon it . . . At press time, we had less than 200 gold pendants left in our bank vault. These will be sold on a first come basis and can be shipped in approximately one week after receipt of order.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR A BETTER SOCIETY

When writing checks or money orders it is not necessary to write out the entire name of our organization which admittedly is quite long and most of us have trouble spelling the word commemorative. It is perfectly legal and far more simpler to write your checks to CCMS, Inc. It is also a good idea to write your membership number on all checks and correspondence. Please do not fail to include your invoice. On one recent day, we had five checks mailed in without the invoices. This can cause many complications. Much time is lost in looking up each member's name in our many files. Without the invoice, errors in posting are often made.

While our office staff strive to do the best accounting work possible, there is always room for improvement. Their greatest problem area centers around late payments. Nearly all our errors in posting, errors of omission and mailing out medals are usually caused in some way by late payments. Late payment members average about 25% of the 1898 memberships and creates unnecessary hardships and expenses on the sound workings of a well oiled organization. Continued co-operation in these matters will help to maintain our lower medal prices which have not risen in over four years.

NAMEPLATES AND CHRISTMAS MEDAL

The complete set of nameplates for the Life Of Mary Series will be mailed out altogether to members with the fifth issue which is the Jesus Is Born Medal. This is the scheduled issue for this coming December. To receive this nativity medal at Christmas time will be the perfect and ideal time.

IN THE MAILBAG

I received my 18 Karat solid gold Prince of Peace medal pendant today and I could not refrain from writing the CCMS a letter of appreciation. This pendant and the sterling silver medal of the same design which I purchased from your Society two years ago, are in my opinion the best quality medals I have ever seen. Your mint truly did a wonderful job but the credit really goes to Evangelos Frudakis, the sculptor.

I would like to add that no other company or agency has shown me greater respect or patience than did the CCMS. Every letter of inquiry was answered promptly and in full. Even though a non-member, I did not think I could have received more polite or gracious service oriented toward quality through the mails than from the CCMS and for this I thank you.

James C. Pace
of Florida

NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 6 - Number 5 **December, 1972**

SPECIAL OFFER FOR CCMS MEMBERS

Our sister organization, the Catholic Art Guild, has available a small number of single commemorative medals such as the ones pictured above. This is the first offer made outside of the regular Guild membership and is a rare opportunity offered exclusively for CCMS members. These limited number of proofs were made possible from broken sets which were part of a series called the Twelve Greatest Medals of Christendom.

These solid sterling silver and bronze proofs are the same size and weight as our CCMS issues. They are hallmarked, serial numbered and are encased in a Lucite octagonal holder. Each medal comes in an individual plush presentation case with a blue velvet flock and satin interior. There is also a metal identification nameplate built into each case to complete this beautiful assemblage of colors and material which compliment the fine artistry of each medal.

The enclosed sheet portrays these twelve great commemoratives with a total of twenty four memorable scenes. Ten of America's greatest medallic sculptors plus one nun and one priest all contributed their talents to this historic set.

Individual medals can be purchased for $12.50 each postpaid in sterling and $6.00 each postpaid in bronze. All medals come with the previously described cases.

It is recommended that members who order give a second and third choice due to the small quantities of remaining medals. It should also be noted that due to the popularity of Gilroy Roberts and Evangelos Frudakis plus the subject matter of the first two issues that these two medals are usually sold out.

The Guild also has a few complete sets of the Twelve Greatest Medals of Christendom for sale that were bought back from members who were not financially able to keep them. These sets are in mint condition and include the Twelve Medal Presentation Case. These sets may be bought at the original issue price of $114.00 with a 5% discount now being offered for payment in full. A small deposit and layaway terms are acceptable. All orders should be addressed to the Membership Director, The Catholic Art Guild, Canfield, Ohio 44406.

NAMEPLATE STATUS AT PRESS TIME

As we go to press which is December 6th, we expect our bulk delivery of Jesus Is Born medals to arrive in the next day or so. A long distant call to our nameplate manufacturer brings us a promise of shipping our order by December 11th. This is over one month past our requested delivery date. We expect to ship by the 13th of December in order to beat the Christmas mailing rush.

As you read this only you will know if our medals arrived on time and whether the nameplates arrived and were included. Most manufacturers promise delivery in three to four weeks. Learning otherwise, we have been allowing eight weeks, but lately we may have to think in terms of three months.

While on the subject of nameplates, it has come to our attention that a number of members do not know that the nameplates have pressure-sensitive adhesive backing. This means that by peeling off the wax paper from the back of each nameplate, you are exposing an adhesive which will make the nameplate stick and stay in place. This adhesive is sensitive to pressure so that by pressing down firmly the nameplate is virtually permanent in its placed position. For the correct chronological order of the nameplates in the case, members should refer to the CCMS combined June–August NEWSLETTER for the complete list of Life of Mary subjects.

IN THE MAILBAG

I prize very highly my Life of Christ Series, Twelve Apostles Series and the current Life of Mary collection.

May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your valuable assistance in presenting information relative to the various series and your guidance in our endeavor to acquire beautiful religious art. It is a pleasure to follow your NEWSLETTERS.

Margaret Armstrong (0709)
of Indiana

NEWSLETTER

Catholic Commemorative Medal Society, Canfield, Ohio 44406

Volume 6 - Number 6 **February, 1973**

NOMINATION TIME AGAIN

With the enclosed Presentation Medal we arrive at the halfway mark of the ever beautiful Life of Mary Series. With six more medals to go, we must be looking ahead to planning our next series.

Often a year of preparation and research go into laying the foundation of a new medallic series. The quality and greatness of any new series is reflected by the careful groundwork and research that precedes the release of the first issue.

Choosing the subject of a new series lies in the hands of the membership. The CCMS as a society has been dedicated to the democratic process. While the CCMS Directors may recommend their views, the ultimate decision will be revealed only by way of nominations and the ballot. Without these means, the officers could conceivably be far out of tune with the desires of the membership. The CCMS Officers urge all members to submit their preferences by returning the enclosed CCMS NOMINATION FORM.

NEW SERIES RECOMMENDATION

Since our last election, the CCMS has had many letters recommending that the next series be the story of the Church and its people in America. The suggested title of the proposed series appropriately could be "The American Catholic Heritage Series."

The American Catholic Heritage Series would be a tremendously inspiring series. Added to this are the factors of human interest and educational value. To their children, parents could point with pride the immense contributions Catholics have made to our great country.

Such a series could begin with Christopher Columbus, John Cabot, Giovani Verazanno and Amerigo Vespucci. America got its very name from Vespucci's first name Amerigo. Other famous explorers of Catholic heritage were Marquette, Joliet, De Soto and LaSalle.

Early American history is rich with names of brave missionaries like Father Junipero Serra, Father Kino, Father de Padilla and other Catholic pioneers such as Kit Carson and Buffalo Bill Cody. The story of America's first martyrs such as Saint Isaac Jogues and seven other Jesuit pioneer priests is worthy of recognition. All later were to become canonized and become our first saints.

The beginnings of the American Catholic Church, its founders and leaders bring to mind many famous and important personalities such as Lord Baltimore, Charles Carroll, John Carroll, Father Gallitzin and Father Mansell.

During the American Revolution, we remember John Barry, who was the founder of the American Navy. Others like Lafayette, Pulaski, Kosciusko and Fitzsimmons contributed to the final military victory. Unfortunately, space does not allow mentioning famous names of other Irish and Italian Catholics who served in the first struggles with England and later in the Civil War.

The role of the early Catholic American woman is another story not to be overlooked. Familiar are names like Blessed Elizabeth Seton, Sister Rose Duchesne, Mother Catherine Spalding and later Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini.

Running down to the present era, Catholics are found in growing numbers due to the great migration of European Catholics to our shores. Especially during the times of the popular Al Smith, the field of the fine arts poured forth a rich abundance of famous personalities. We again can only mention a few such as John Philip Sousa, Arturo Toscanini, Fritz Kreisler, Enrico Caruso, John McCormack, George M. Cohan, Ignace Paderewski, Joyce Kilmer, Ethel Barrymore, Spencer Tracy and later Mario Lanza.

In the sports world there are so many of Catholic heritage that we mention only a few to stimulate yo interest. There are legendary nam like John L. Sullivan, Babe Rut Connie Mack, Knute Rockne and lat Vince Lombardi.

In the above sketches we have bar ly scratched the surface of the colo ful people, places and events respo sible for molding what is part of o American Catholic heritage. The cor memorative medals issued would rouse widespread interest and becor increasingly treasured among Cath lics, as Catholics, as well as amo medal collectors in general.

Whenever possible, balloting wou be used to select and single out tho personalities in each grouping accor ing to the desires of the voting mer bership. Understandingly, there h to be limits in the choices mad

When the next series begins, t availability of a large capacity albu along with the traditional cases w be definitely assured. The album w be very similar to the one offered b the National Commemorative Socie which has proved very popular ov the years.

NEW SIMPLIFIED INVOICE ENCLOSED

A new easier to understand a vance payment invoice is enclosed f the next two issues. Invoices are i cluded with every other medal thr times per year. Normally, medals a still shipped one at a time every oth month at the rate of six issues p year.